

Membership Balance Plan
United States Strategic Command Strategic Advisory Group

Agency: Department of Defense (DoD)

1. Authority: The Secretary of Defense, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended) and 41 C.F.R. § 102-3.50(d), established the United States Strategic Command Strategic Advisory Group (“the Group”).
2. Mission/Function: The Group shall provide the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense, through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Commander of the United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), with independent advice and recommendations on:
 - a. Scientific, technical, intelligence, and policy-related matters of interest to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the USSTRATCOM concerning the development and implementation of the Nation’s strategic war plans;
 - b. Enhancements in USSTRATCOM’s mission area responsibilities; and
 - c. Other matters related to the Nation’s strategic forces, as requested by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff or the Commander, USSTRATCOM.
3. Points of View: The Group shall be composed of no more than 20 members who are eminent authorities in the fields of strategic policy formulation; nuclear weapon design; national command, control, communications, intelligence, and information operations; or other important aspects of the Nation’s strategic forces.

Each member, based upon his or her individual and professional experiences, provides his or her best judgment on the matters before him or her and does so without representing any particular point of view and in a manner that is free from conflict of interest. Group members who are not full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees shall be appointed as experts or consultants pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 3109 to serve as special government employee (SGE) members. Group members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees will be appointed pursuant to 41 C.F.R. § 102-3.130(a) to serve as regular government employee (RGE) members.

The DoD, in selecting potential candidates for the Group, reviews the educational and professional credentials of individuals and bases its selection on this review and the subject matters being handled by the Group. The Department has found that viewing the complex issues facing the Department, through a multidisciplinary advisory committee, provides the Department and, more importantly, the American public with a broader understanding of the issues on which to base subsequent policy decisions.

The Group’s membership balance is not static and the Secretary of Defense may change the membership based upon work assigned to the Group by the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as the Sponsor. The DoD, unless otherwise provided for by an Act of Congress or Presidential directive, does not use representative members on DoD-established or supported advisory committees.

4. Other Balance Factors: None.

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5. Candidate Identification Process: The DoD, in selecting potential candidates for the Group, reviews the educational and professional credentials of individuals with extensive professional experience in the fields of strategic policy formulation; nuclear weapon design; national command, control, communications, intelligence, and information operations; or other important aspects of the Nation's strategic forces.

Once potential candidates are identified, the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), in consultation with the Group's Chair, reviews the credentials of each individual and narrows the list of potential candidates. The DFO will forward the list of potential candidates to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff through the Commander, USSTRATCOM. During the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff review, he or she strives to achieve a balance between the educational and professional credentials of the individual candidates and the subject matters anticipated to be reviewed by the Group.

Once the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has narrowed the list of candidates and before formal nomination to the Secretary of Defense, the list of potential candidates undergoes a review by the Office of General Counsel for the DoD and the Office of the Advisory Committee Management Officer to ensure compliance with federal and DoD governance requirements, including compliance with the Group's charter and membership balance plan. Following this review, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff discusses the potential individuals with the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense and requests authority to proceed with the nominations.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is authorized to administratively certify the appointment of the Group members that were previously authorized by the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Consistent with Deputy Secretary of Defense policy and the authority delegated to the ACMO by the Assistant Deputy Chief Management Officer, the ACMO is authorized to administratively certify the annual renewal of appointment of Group members. Consistent with authority delegated to DoD Sponsors, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will appoint the Group's Chair from among the membership previously authorized by the Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Following Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense authorization and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's subsequent administrative certification, the candidates are required to complete the necessary appointment paperwork, to include meeting ethics requirements stipulated by the Office of Government Ethics for Group members. All Group appointments are for a one-to-four-year term of service, with annual renewals; however, no Group member may serve more than two consecutive terms of service, unless authorized by the Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Group and subcommittee member vacancies will be filled in the same manner as described in the previous four paragraphs above.

6. Subcommittee Balance: The DoD, as necessary and consistent with the Group's mission and DoD policies and procedures, may establish subcommittees, task forces, or working groups

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to support the Group. The DoD has established one permanent subcommittee, the Stockpile Assessment Team, which has the same points of view requirements as the Group.

Individuals considered for appointment to any subcommittee of the Group may come from the Group itself or from new nominees, as recommended by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and based upon the subject matters under consideration. Pursuant to Secretary of Defense policy, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is authorized to administratively certify the appointment of subcommittee members if the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense has previously authorized the individual's appointment to the Group or another DoD advisory committee. If this previous authorization has not occurred, then the individual's subcommittee appointment must first be authorized by the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense and subsequently administratively certified by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Subcommittee members, with the approval of the Secretary of Defense, will be appointed for a term of service of one-to-four years, subject to annual renewals; however, no member shall serve more than two consecutive terms of service on the subcommittee. Subcommittee members, if not full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees, will be appointed as experts or consultants pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 3109 to serve as SGE members. Subcommittee members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees will be appointed pursuant to 41 C.F.R. § 102-3.130(a) to serve as RGE members.

7. Other: As nominees are considered for appointment to the Group, the DoD adheres to the Office of Management and Budget's Revised Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Federal Advisory Committee, Boards, and Commissions (79 FR 47482; August 13, 2014) and the rules and regulations issued by the Office of Government Ethics.
8. Date Prepared: May 31, 2016